

Constraints on Dark Energy Parameters from Correlations of CMB with LSS

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In this paper, we combine the latest observational data, including the WMAP five-year data (WMAP5), the baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO) and type Ia supernovae (SN) “union” compilation, and use the Markov Chain Monte Carlo method to determine the dark energy parameters. We pay particular attention to the Integrated Sache-Wolfe (ISW) data from the cross-correlations of cosmic microwave background (CMB) and large scale structure (LSS). In the Λ CDM model, we find that the ISW data, as a complement to the WMAP data, could significantly improve the constraint of curvature Ω_k . We also check the improvement of constraints from the new prior on the Hubble constant and find this new prior could improve the constraint of Ω_k by a factor of 2. Finally, we study the dynamical evolving EoS of dark energy from the current observational data. Based on the dynamical dark energy model, parameterizing as $w(a) = w_0 + w_a(1 - a)$, we find that the Λ CDM model remains a good fit to the current data. When taking into account the ISW data, the error bars of w_0 and w_a could be shrunk slightly. Current constraints on the dynamical dark energy model are not conclusive. The future precision measurements are needed.

I. INTRODUCTION

Unveiling the origin of the current accelerating expansion of our Universe is a big challenge for the modern cosmology either theoretically or observationally. The origin source which drives the expansion could be attributed to a mysterious budget, dark energy. Thus, the nature of dark energy is one of the biggest unsolved problems in modern physics and has been extensively investigated in recent years.

The measurements of CMB [1–3], LSS surveys [4, 5] and SN [6, 7] have provided a lot of high quality data at present. These data have been widely used to constrain various cosmological models. However, one should keep in mind that the degeneracies of cosmological parameters generally exist in almost all cosmological observations, i.e., they are not sensitive to single parameters but to some specific combinations of them. These degeneracies could weaken constraints on the cosmological parameters. It is therefore highly necessary to combine different probes to break parameter degeneracies so as to achieve tight constraints. Furthermore, different observations are affected by different systematic errors, and it is thus helpful to reduce potential biases by combining different probes.

One of the useful complementary probe is the late-time ISW effect [8]. This ISW effect is produced by the CMB photons passing through the time-evolving gravitational potential well, when dark energy or curvature becomes important at later times. Therefore, the ISW effect provides a promising probe for studying the acceleration mechanism of our universe, especially for the dark energy and the curvature of Universe. Cross correlating CMB with tracers of LSS surveys for detecting the ISW effect [9] has been widely investigated in the literature [10–26].

In this paper, we will present the constraints on various cosmological models from the current observations,

including the WMAP5 data, SN “union” compilation, and recently released BAO data from SDSS DR7, as well as the ISW data. The structured of the paper is as following: in Section II we describe the method and the data sets; in Section III we present our numerical results and discussion; finally we give a summary and outlook in Section VI.

II. METHOD AND DATA

For the parametrizations of dark energy models, we adopt Λ CDM model and dynamical dark energy model with CPL parametrization [27] as following:

$$w_{\text{DE}}(a) = w_0 + w_a(1 - a) \quad (1)$$

where $a = 1/(1 + z)$ is the scale factor and w_a characterizes the “running” of the equation-of-state (EoS) of dark energy. In the Λ CDM model, $w_0 = -1$ and $w_a = 0$.

For dark energy models whose EoS is not equal to -1 during the evolution of Universe, the perturbation of dark energy will inevitably exist. The perturbation of dark energy has no effect on the geometric constraints. However, when including the CMB and LSS data, the perturbation of dark energy should be fully considered, because the late time ISW effect will be different significantly, and will take an important signature on large angular scales of CMB and the matter power spectrum of LSS [28]. For quintessence-like or phantom-like models, in which w does not cross the cosmological constant boundary, the perturbation of dark energy is well defined. However, when w crosses -1 , one is encountered with the divergence problem for perturbations of dark energy at $w = -1$. In order to solve this problem in the global analysis, we introduce a small positive constant ϵ to divide the full range of the allowed value of the EoS w into three parts: 1) $w > -1 + \epsilon$; 2) $-1 - \epsilon \leq w \leq -1 + \epsilon$; and 3) $w < -1 - \epsilon$.

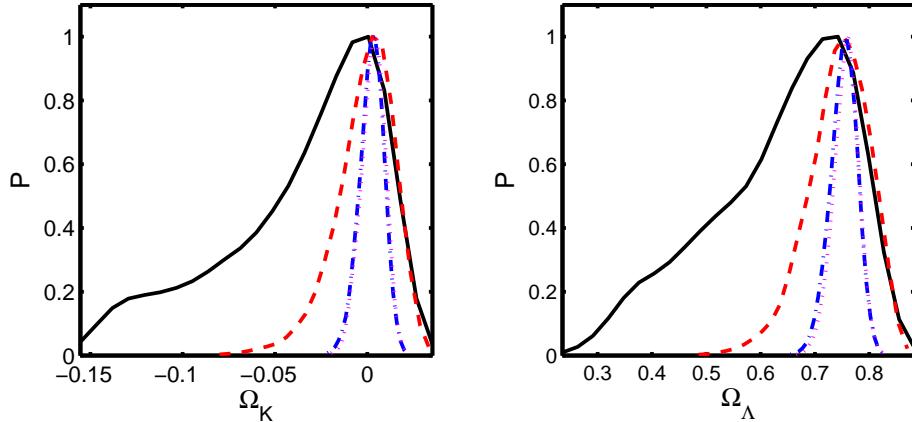


FIG. 1: One dimensional distributions of Ω_k and Ω_Λ from different data combinations: WMAP5 (black solid lines), WMAP5+ISW (red dashed lines), WMAP5+HST (blue dash-dotted lines), and WMAP5+HST+ISW (purple dotted lines).

Working in the conformal Newtonian gauge, the perturbations of DE can be described by

$$\dot{\delta} = -(1+w)(\theta - 3\dot{\Phi}) - 3\mathcal{H}(c_s^2 - w)\delta, \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{\theta} = -\mathcal{H}(1-3w)\theta - \frac{\dot{w}}{1+w}\theta + k^2\left(\frac{c_s^2\delta}{1+w} + \Psi\right). \quad (3)$$

Neglecting the entropy perturbation, for the regions 1) and 3), the EOS does not cross -1 and the perturbation is well defined by solving Eqs.(2,3). For the case 2), the perturbation of energy density δ and divergence of velocity, θ , and the derivatives of δ and θ are finite and continuous for the realistic dark energy models. However for the perturbations of the parameterizations, there is clearly a divergence. In our analysis for such a regime, we match the perturbations in region 2) to the regions 1) and 3) at the boundary and set $\dot{\delta} = 0$ and $\dot{\theta} = 0$. In our numerical calculations we limit the range to be $|\Delta w = \epsilon| < 10^{-4}$ and find our method to be a very good approximation to the multi-field dark energy model. More detailed treatments can be found in Ref.[28].

The publicly available Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) package CosmoMC¹[29] is employed in our global fitting, and modifications have been made to include dark energy perturbations, and to suit the dark energy models which we study [28, 30]. Furthermore, we assume purely adiabatic initial conditions in our calculations.

Our most general theory parameter space vector is:

$$\mathbf{P} \equiv (\omega_b, \omega_c, \Theta_s, \tau, w_0, w_a, \Omega_k, n_s, A_s, c_s^2), \quad (4)$$

where $\omega_b \equiv \Omega_b h^2$ and $\omega_c \equiv \Omega_c h^2$, in which Ω_b and Ω_c are the physical baryon and cold dark matter densities relative to the critical density, Ω_k is the spatial curvature and satisfies $\Omega_k + \Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda = 1$, Θ_s is the ratio

(multiplied by 100) of the sound horizon to the angular diameter distance at decoupling, τ is the optical depth to re-ionization, w_0 and w_a are the parameters of dark energy EoS given by Eq.(1), A_s and n_s characterize the power spectrum of primordial scalar perturbations, c_s^2 is the sound speed of dark energy. For the pivot scale we set $k_{s0} = 0.05 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

In the computation of CMB we have included the WMAP5 temperature and polarization power spectra with the routine for computing the likelihood supplied by the WMAP team². We also combine the distance measurements from BAO and SNIa. For the BAO information, we use the newly released gaussian priors on the distance ratios, $r_s/D_v(z) = 0.1905 \pm 0.0061$ at $z = 0.2$ and $r_s/D_v(z) = 0.1097 \pm 0.0036$ at $z = 0.35$, with a correlation coefficient of 0.337, which were measured from the power spectrum for the distribution of the spectroscopic Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) Data Release 7 (DR7) galaxy sample and the 2-degree Field Galaxy Redshift Survey (2dFGRS) data[33]. For the calculation of the likelihood from supernova, we use are the “Union” compilation (307 sample) [6] and have marginalized over the nuisance parameter [31].

For the ISW data, we have included the package for calculating the ISW likelihood function provided by Ref.[23], which contain a 3.7σ detection of ISW by cross correlating WMAP data with the LSS data sets of 2-Micron All Sky Survey sample, SDSS photometric Luminous Red Galaxies, SDSS photometric quasars, and NRAO VLA Sky Survey radio sources. In our calculations, we have taken the total likelihood to be the products of the separate likelihoods \mathcal{L} of CMB, BAO, SN and ISW. Furthermore, we make use of the newly released HST prior on the Hubble constant, which is

¹ Available at: <http://cosmologist.info/cosmomc/>.

² Available at the LAMBDA website: <http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

the measurement of the Hubble parameter by the Near Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer (NICMOS) Camera 2 of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and give $H_0 \equiv 100h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ by a Gaussian likelihood function centered around $H_0 = 74.2$ and with a standard deviation $\sigma = 3.8$ [32].

III. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section we present our global fitting results of the cosmological parameters determined from the latest observational data.

In Table I we list the constraints on the dark energy density Ω_Λ and the curvature Ω_k in the Λ CDM model from different data combinations. Due to the well-known degeneracy between Ω_Λ and Ω_k , we obtain a weak constraint on the curvature Ω_k from WMAP5 data only, $\Omega_k = -0.036 \pm 0.043$ (68% C.L.), as shown in Fig.1. Our universe is very close to flatness, which is consistent with the prediction of inflation paradigm. However, this degeneracy could be broken by adding other different cosmological data, such as the large scale structure and supernovae data. When we add the ISW data into the analysis, we can find that the combined constraint from WMAP5+ISW is significantly improved over using WMAP5 alone, namely the 68% interval is $\Omega_k = -0.002 \pm 0.016$. The constraints of Ω_k and Ω_Λ improve by a factor of 2.6 and 2.2, respectively. The ISW data give the remarkable complementary effect on WMAP5 data in constraining cosmological parameters and break the degeneracy between Ω_k and Ω_Λ .

In Fig.1 we also plot the one dimensional posterior distribution of Ω_k and Ω_Λ from WMAP5+HST prior. Here, we consider the new released HST prior, $h = 0.742 \pm 0.038$ (1σ). We find that this new HST prior could play an important role in constraining cosmological parameter and give much tighter constraints on cosmological parameters, $\Omega_k = 0.002 \pm 0.007$ (1σ). The error bar has been shrunk by a factor of 6.6 when compared to the constraint from WMAP5 alone. The 95% intervals of Ω_k and Ω_Λ are $-0.012 < \Omega_k < 0.014$ and $0.70 < \Omega_\Lambda < 0.80$. We also do the calculations using the old HST prior, $h = 0.72 \pm 0.08$ [34]. Using WMAP5+HST old prior, we obtain that the 2σ constraints on Ω_k and Ω_Λ are $-0.045 < \Omega_k < 0.015$ and $0.59 < \Omega_\Lambda < 0.80$, respectively. The constraints significantly improve by a factor of 2. Furthermore, when combining WMAP5, ISW and HST together, the constraint on Ω_k will improve further: $\Omega_k = 0.003 \pm 0.006$ at 68% confidence level.

In Fig.2 we present the two dimensional contours of Ω_k and Ω_Λ from different data combinations in the Λ CDM model. We find that Ω_k and Ω_Λ are highly correlated with each other. The ISW data and the new HST prior are very helpful in breaking such degeneracy.

We now present the constraints on dark energy parameters. In Ref.[23], they considered the constraints on dark energy model with constant EoS, and found that

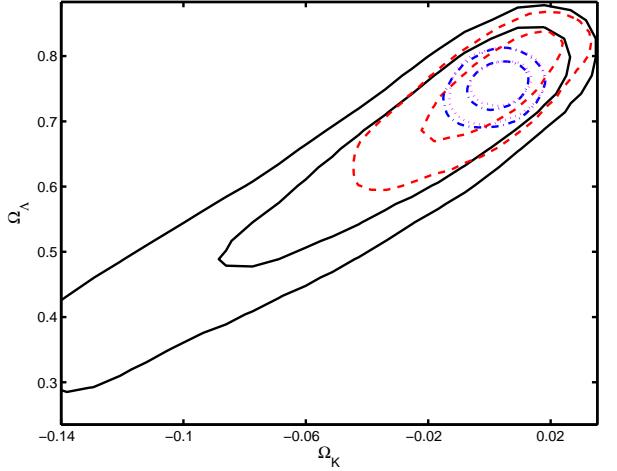


FIG. 2: Two dimensional contours of Ω_k and Ω_Λ from different data combinations within the Λ CDM model: WMAP5 (black solid lines), WMAP5+ISW (red dashed lines), WMAP5+HST (blue dash-dotted lines), and WMAP5+HST+ISW (purple dotted lines).

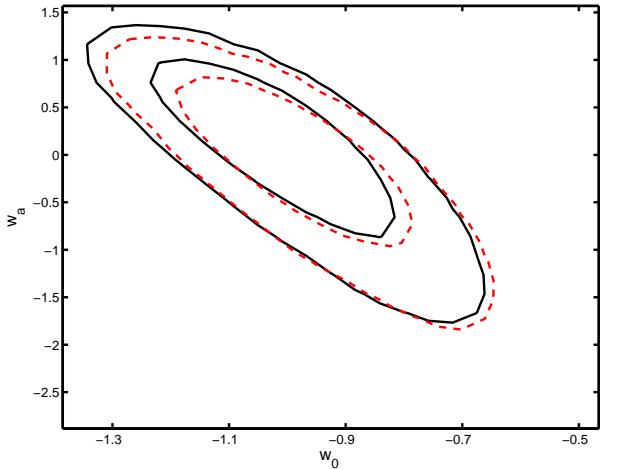


FIG. 3: Two dimension contours of the EoS parameters of dark energy w_0 and w_a . The black solid lines are given by WMAP5+SN+BAO and the red dashed lines are given by WMAP5+SN+BAO+ISW, respectively.

the ISW data could modestly improve constraint of dark energy EoS. As we know, the variation of dark energy EoS could also affect the evolution of gravitational potential, and the ISW effect consequently. It would be worth checking the capabilities of ISW data on the constraint of time-varying dark energy EoS. In Fig.3 we plot the two dimensional contours of w_0 and w_a from different data combinations. The black solid lines are given by fitting with the combination of WMAP5 temperature and polarization power spectra, supernovae data, as well as the newly released BAO data. Due to the limits of the precisions of observational data, the variance of w_0 and

TABLE I. Mean 1σ constraints on Ω_k and Ω_Λ from different data combinations in the Λ CDM model.

	WMAP only	WMAP+ISW	WMAP+HST	WMAP+ISW+HST
$100 \times \Omega_k$	-3.57 ± 4.28	-0.182 ± 1.61	0.226 ± 0.65	0.304 ± 0.630
Ω_Λ	0.635 ± 0.130	0.742 ± 0.0566	0.752 ± 0.0243	0.756 ± 0.0228

TABLE II. Mean 1σ constraints on w_0 , w_a and Ω_Λ from different data combinations in the dynamical dark energy model.

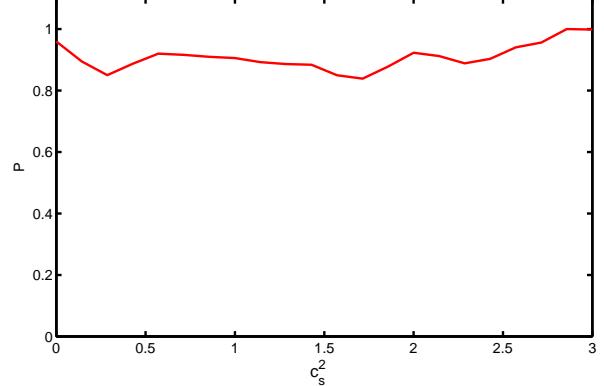
	WMAP+SN+BAO	WMAP+SN+BAO+ISW
w_0	-1.002 ± 0.136	-0.970 ± 0.130
w_a	0.0096 ± 0.64	-0.134 ± 0.612
Ω_Λ	0.732 ± 0.0149	0.734 ± 0.0144

w_a are still large, namely the 95% constraints on w_0 and w_a are $-1.25 < w_0 < -0.72$ and $-1.47 < w_a < 1.00$ respectively, which are listed in Table II. This result implies that the dynamical dark energy models are not excluded and the current data cannot distinguish different dark energy models decisively. The Λ CDM model, however, is still a good fit right now.

We also include the ISW data into the calculations. From the red dashed lines in Fig.3, we can find that the constraints on the dark energy EoS parameters slightly improve from WMAP5+SN+BAO+ISW combination. The 95% intervals are $-1.21 < w_0 < -0.71$ and $-1.52 < w_a < 0.86$. The ISW data help tighten the lower limit on w_0 and the upper limit on w_a , but not significantly. These is due to the constraining power of SNIa and BAO, while the current ISW data are still not constraining enough. However, the ISW data could be a useful probe for constraining other dark energy models, such as the early dark energy model [25]. And they also found that the future ISW data can improve the constraints on the most important cosmological parameters by a factor ~ 1.5 .

Again, we also compare the constraints on dark energy parameters between from the new HST prior and from the old one. When we combine WMAP5, SN, BAO, as well as the old HST prior, we obtain that the 2σ constraints on w_0 and w_a are $-1.23 < w_0 < -0.7$ and $-1.49 < w_a < 0.94$, which is slightly weaker than those from the new HST prior.

If dark energy is not the cosmological constant, we should consider the dark energy perturbations in our calculations. In the framework of the linear perturbations theory, besides the EoS of dark energy, the dark energy perturbations can also be characterized by the sound speed, $c_s^2 \equiv \delta p_\Lambda / \delta \rho_\Lambda$. The sound speed of dark energy affects the evolution of perturbations, and leaves the signatures on the CMB power spectrum [35, 38, 39]. Thus, in the literature constraining on the sound speed c_s^2 from different observational data has been widely investigated (e.g. Refs.[36, 37, 39]).

FIG. 4: One dimensional constraints on the sound speed c_s^2 from WMAP5+SN+BAO+ISW combination in the dynamical dark energy model.

Here, we also constrain the dark energy sound speed from current data in the dynamical dark energy model. In Fig.4, we show the one dimensional constraint on the dark energy sound speed c_s^2 from the combination of WMAP5 temperature and polarization power spectra, SNIa and BAO, as well as the ISW data. We can find that the constraint on the dark energy sound speed c_s^2 are still very weak. The current observational data are still not accurate enough.

IV. SUMMARY

In this paper, we study the constraints on cosmological parameters from the recently released CMB, BAO and SNIa data. Here, we pay particular attention to the current ISW data which is the cross correlations of CMB with LSS surveys. In the Λ CDM model, the ISW data and the new HST prior are very helpful to break the degeneracy between Ω_k and Ω_Λ . The constraints on Ω_k and Ω_Λ significantly improve, when compared to the constraints from WMAP5 alone.

More importantly, we consider the constraints on the dark energy parameters in the CPL dark energy model. Here, we fully include the perturbations of dark energy. This result implies that the dynamical dark energy models are not excluded, the Λ CDM model, however, is still a good fit right now. We find that the ISW data could give slight improvement of the constraints on CPL dark energy model. But this does not mean that the ISW data can not constrain the dynamical dark energy models effi-

ciently. Actually, it should be useful for constraining the dynamical dark energy models whose EoS $w(z)$ deviate from the cosmological constant boundary obviously, for example, the early dark energy models [25], or the dark energy model with its EoS $w(z)$ transits sharply during its evolution. Besides the dark energy models, the ISW data could be also helpful for testing the modified gravity theories [40–43], massive neutrinos [44], the primordial non-gaussianity [45, 46], and so on.

Furthermore, we compare the constraints between from the new HST prior and from the old one. One can see that the new HST prior gives the tighter constraints on the cosmological parameters. Finally, we check the capability of current observational data to constrain the dark energy sound speed c_s^2 . We find that the sound speed is weakly constrained by current observations, and thus futuristic precision measurements of the CMB on a

very large angular scale (low multipoles) are necessary.

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